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	8	Joshua B. Swigart, Esq. (SBN: 225557)							
	9	josh@westcoastlitigation.com 2221 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101							
	10	San Diego, CA 92108							
		Telephone: (619) 233-7770							
APC 600 05	11	Facsimile: (619) 297-1022							
~ ~ ~ ~	12	Attorneys for Plaintiff,							
GROUF et, Ste. ornia 92	13	Jessica Reiten							
LAW a Stre Calif	14	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT							
Mah Ana,	15	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA							
KAZEROUNI I 2700 N. Main Santa Ana, C	16	JESSICA REITEN,	640413-13055VW (Ablx)						
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×	- 17 -	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE						
×	- 17 - 18	Plaintiff, v.	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. 88						
×			COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692-1692(P)						
×	18	D. SCOTT CARRUTHERS, A PROFESSIONAL LAW							
×	18 19	v. D. SCOTT CARRUTHERS,	1692-1692(P)						
*	18 19 20	D. SCOTT CARRUTHERS, A PROFESSIONAL LAW	1692-1692(P)						
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*	18 19 20 21 22	D. SCOTT CARRUTHERS, A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION, Defendant.	1692-1692(P)						
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1.

Introduction

- The United States Congress has found abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors, and has determined that abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy. Congress wrote the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq, to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses.
- 2. The California legislature has determined that the banking and credit system and grantors of credit to consumers are dependent upon the collection of just and owing debts and that unfair or deceptive collection practices undermine the public confidence that is essential to the continued functioning of the banking and credit system and sound extensions of credit to consumers. The Legislature has further determined that there is a need to ensure that debt collectors exercise this responsibility with fairness, honesty, and due regard for the debtor's rights and that debt collectors must be prohibited from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices.¹
- 3. JESSICA REITEN ("Plaintiff"), by Plaintiff's attorneys, brings this action to challenge the actions of D. SCOTT CARRUTHERS, A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION ("Defendant") with regard to attempts by Defendant, debt collectors, to unlawfully and abusively collect a debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff, and this conduct caused Plaintiff damages.

¹ Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1788.1 (a)-(b)

III

- 4. Plaintiff makes these allegations on information and belief, with the exception of those allegations that pertain to a plaintiff, or to a plaintiff's counsel, which Plaintiff alleges on personal knowledge.
- 5. While many violations are described below with specificity, this Complaint alleges violations of the statute cited in its entirety.
- 6. Unless otherwise stated, all the conduct engaged in by Defendant took place in California.
- 7. Any violations by Defendant were knowing, willful, and intentional, and Defendant did not maintain procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such violation.
- 8. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of Defendant's name in this Complaint includes all agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers of Defendant's named.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 9. Jurisdiction of this Court arises pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k)
- 10. This action arises out of Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692-1692(p) ("FDCPA").
- 11. Because Defendant conducts business within the State of California, personal jurisdiction is established.
- 12. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

PARTIES

13. Plaintiff is a natural person who resides in the State of California, from whom a debt collector sought to collect a consumer debt which was due and owing or alleged to be due and owing from Plaintiff. In addition, Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant is a company operating from the County of Orange, State of California.
- 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant, in the ordinary course of business, regularly, on behalf of themselves or others, engage in "debt collection" and are therefore "debt collectors" as the terms are defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 16. This case involves money, property or their equivalent, due or owing or alleged to be due or owing from a natural person by reason of a consumer credit transaction. As such, this action arises out of a "debt" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 17. At all times relevant, Plaintiff is an individual residing within the State of California.
- 18. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times relevant, Defendant conducted business in the State of California.
- 19. In or about 2010, Plaintiff allegedly incurred financial obligations to the original creditor, Dartmouth College, that were money, property, or their equivalent, which is due or owing, or alleged to be due or owing, from a natural person to another person and were therefore "debt(s)" and a "consumer debt" as the terms are defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 20. Subsequently, the alleged debt was allegedly assigned, placed, or otherwise transferred, to Defendant for collection.
- 21. Thereafter, but before June 2013, Dartmouth College retained Defendant, a debt collector pursuant to the FDCPA, to proceed with collection and legal action against Plaintiff for the collection of Plaintiff's alleged financial obligations.

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22. On June 20, 2013 at 8:46 a.m., Defendant sent Defendant's initial written communication to Plaintiff via e-mail. Said e-mail stated the following:

THIS EMAIL IS SENT PER YOUR REQUEST:

DON SUMMERS MANAGER 800-495-****

- 23. Defendant's initial written communication constitutes a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692(g) failing to include:
 - A. the amount of the debt;
 - B. the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
 - C. a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
 - D. a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any potion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and,
 - E. a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.
 - 24.15 U.S.C. § 1692g is incorporated into the RFDCPA through Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.

² Mr. Summers' telephone number has been redacted in order to protect Mr. Summers' privacy.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- 25.Defendant's initial written communication failed to state that Defendant was attempting to collect a debt, and that any information obtained would be used for that purpose in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11).
- 26.15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) is incorporated into the RFDCPA through Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.
- 27. Attached to Defendant's June 20, 2013 e-mail was another written communication.
- 28. For the reasons discussed above, said written communication also constitutes a violation of 15 U.S.C. 1692e(11); 1692g; and, Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17 by failing to inform Plaintiff of the necessary information with regard to Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 29. Furthermore, Defendant's June 20, 2013 written communication also attempted to collect \$13,021.80, an invalid debt from Plaintiff.
- 30. Evidence of the fact that Defendant was attempting to collect an invalid debt from Plaintiff is the Prayer for Relief in the lawsuit entitled *Dartmouth College v. Jessica Reiten And DOES 1 through 10, inclusive* filed in the Orange County Superior Court, court case no.: 30-2013-00660775 ("the State Action").
- 31. Page 3 of the State Action prays for judgment against Plaintiff as follows:
 - A. For \$7,932.52, principal;
 - B. For interest thereon at the rate of 5 % per annum from 09/15/2010;
 - C. For reasonable attorney fees of \$ 675.95
 - D. For costs of suit incurred herein; and,
 - E. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.
 - 32.Both written communications failed to provide the required Notice of Debtor's Rights, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1812.700, and in the manner prescribed by Cal. Civ. Code § 1812.700(b) and Cal. Civ. Code § 1812.701(b). Consequently, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1812.702, this

omission by Defendant violated the Rosenthal Act.

- 33.As of June 20, 2013, two years of interest had accrued on Plaintiff's alleged debt at 5% per year. Assuming arguendo that the amount of Plaintiff's alleged debt was valid and the interest rate was also valid, Plaintiff's alleged debt as of June 20, 2013 was \$8,745.61, an amount significantly less than demanded by Defendant.
- 34.Defendant's demand of \$13,021.80 constitutes a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e by using false, deceptive and misleading representations in connection with the collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt. This section is incorporated into the RFDCPA through Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.
- 35.Defendant's June 20, 2013 written communication falsely represented the amount of Plaintiff's alleged debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A). This section is incorporated into the RFDCPA through Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.
- 36.Defendant's use of false representations and deceptive means in attempting to collect Plaintiff's alleged debt constitutes a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10). This section is incorporated into the RFDCPA through Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.
- 37.Defendant's misrepresentation of the amount of Plaintiff's alleged debt constitutes a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f by using unfair and unconscionable means to attempt to collect Plaintiff's alleged debt. This section is incorporated into the RFDCPA through Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.
- 38.Defendant's June 20, 2013 written communication constitutes a violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1) by collection an amount from Plaintiff that Defendant was not expressly authorized to collect by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law. This section is incorporated into the RFDCPA through

Cal. Civ. Code	§ 1788.17; thus, Defendant has also vio	olated C	al. Civ. Code
§ 1788.17		r	•.

39. Through this conduct, Defendant took actions against Plaintiff concerning the alleged debt in violation of the statute discussed above. Consequently, Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e; 1692e(2)(A); 1692e(10); 1692e(11); 1692f; 1692f(1); and, 1692g. In addition, Defendant also violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.

CAUSES OF ACTION CLAIMED BY PLAINTIFF

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692-1692(p) (FDCPA)

[Against All Defendants]

- 40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 41. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA.
- 42. As a result-of-each and every violation of the FDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to any actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1); statutory damages for a knowing or willful violation in the amount up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A); and reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) from each Defendant individually.

COUNT II

VIOLATION OF THE ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1788-1788.32 (RFDCPA)

[Against All Defendants]

43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- 44. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute numerous and multiple violations of the RFDCPA.
- 45. As a result of each and every violation of the RFDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to any actual damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(a); statutory damages for a knowing or willful violation in the amount up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(b); and reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(c) from each Defendant individually.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant for:

- an award of actual damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(a), against each named Defendant individually;
- an award of actual damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1), against each named Defendant individually;
- an award of statutory damages of \$1,000.00, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(b), against each named Defendant individually;
- an award of statutory damages of \$1,000.00, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A), against each named Defendant individually;
- an award of costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(c), against each named Defendant individually.
- an award of costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3), against each named Defendant individually; and,
- any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY 46. Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury. Dated: August 22, 2013 Respectfully submitted, AW GROUP, APC By BBAS KAZEROUNIAN, ESQ. ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF PAGE 10 OF 10 Complaint for Damages

Matthew M. Loker, Esq. KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC 245 Fischer Avenue, Unit D1 Costa Mesa, CA 92626 Telephone: (800) 400-6808 ext. 5 Facsimile: (800) 520-5523	· · · ·
UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT COURT T OF CALIFORNIA
JESSICA REITEN, CENTRAL DISTRIC	CASE ATTRICED.
PLAINTIFF(S) D. SCOTT CARRUTHERS, A PROFESSIONAL	SACV13-1305 SVW (AGPx)
LAW CORPORATION, DEFENDANT(S).	ŞUMMONS
TO: DEFENDANT(S): A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
Within 21 days after service of this summormust serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached	2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer
judgment by default will be entered against you for the your answer or motion with the court.	relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file
-AUG 2 3 2013	Clerk, U.S. District Court
Dated:	By:
	(Seal of the Court)
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United Stat 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	es agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed
CV-01A (10/11 SUN	amons

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFES (Check box i	DESCRIPTE ARRUTHERS, A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION,						
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yourself, provide same.) Matthew M. Loker, Esq. (SI 245 Fischer Avenue, Unit D		representing	Attomeys (If Known)				•
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☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This	s State	PTF DEF	Incorporated or Pr of Business in this	rincipal Place 🗆 4	DEF □ 4
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) 	Citizen of And	other State	□2 □2	Incorporated and of Business in An	Principal Place 5 other State	□ 5
		Citizen or Sub	ject of a Foreign Country	□3 □3	Foreign Nation	□6	□6
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one 1 Original 2 Removed Proceeding State Cot	i from □3 Remanded from □4 R	Reinstated or Reopened	5 Transferred from anoth	er district (s	pecify): □ 6 Multi Distri Litigs	ict Judge from	1
V. REQUESTED IN COMPLA							
LASS ACTION under F.R.C.			MONEY DEMANDED				
	the U.S. Civil Statute under which you Infair Debt Collection Practices	are filing and w	rite a brief statement of ca	use. Do not	cite jurisdictional sta	dutes unless diversity.))
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□ 895 Freedom of Info. Act		1 MonGRA 110 62 Naturalizatio			Occupational	□ 865 RSI (405(g))	
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AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

CV-71 (05/08)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: If yes, list case number(s):	Has this action been provi	iously filed in this court and	dismissed, remanded or closed? Se No 🗆 Yes			
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: If yes, list case number(s):	Have any cases been provid	ously filed in this court that	are related to the present case? SNo DYes			
IX. VENUE: (When completing	A. Arise from the same of B. Call for determination C. For other reasons wou D. Involve the same pate the following information of the California County out	r closely related transaction of the same or substantially ald entail substantial duplica nt, trademark or copyright, n, use an additional sheet if side of this District: State if	y related or similar questions of law and fact; or tion of labor if heard by different judges; or and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present. necessary.) other than California; or Foreign Country, in which RACH named plaintiff resides.			
County in this District:	m, its agencies or employe	es is a manifed plantinii. In t	his box is checked, go to item (b). California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country			
Orango County			24 COT count defendant residen			
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County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country			
(c) List the County in this Dist Note: In land condemnati	rict; California County ou lon cases, use the location	tside of this District; State it of the tract of land involv	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.			
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country			
t Los Angeles Orange San R	ernardino, Riverside Ve	ntija Santa Barbara, or	San Luis Obispo Counties			
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or other papers as required but is used by the Clork of	the CV-71 (JS-44) of by law. This form, approve the Court for the purpose of	ed by the Judicial Conference of statistics, venue and initia	Date			
Key to Statistical codes relating Nature of Suit C		Substantive Statement	of Cause of Action			
861	ніа	All claims for health insu Also, include claims by h program. (42 U.S.C. 193	rance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended, aspitals, skilled mursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the (SFF(b))			
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lu (30 U.S.C. 923)	ng" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.			
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insure amended; plus all claims	red workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as is filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))			
863	DIWW	All claims filed for wido Act, as amended. (42 U.	lows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Tale 2 of the Social Security J.S.C. 405(g))			
864 .	SSID	All claims for supplement Act, as amended.	ntal security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security			
865	RSI	All claims for retirement U.S.C. (g))	(old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42			
CV-71 (05/08)	<u></u>	CIVII	COVER SHEET Page 2 of 2			

CV-71 (05/08)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

	This case has been assign	ned to D	istrict Judge _	Stepl	hen V. W	ilson	_ and the assigned
Magist	rate Judge is	licia G. I	Rosenberg	· ·			
	The case numb	er on all	documents file	d with the Co	urt shou	ld read as follo	ows:
			8:13CV1305	SVW AGR	x		
Califor	Pursuant to General Ore						District of
	All discovery related mo	tions sh	ould be noticed	on the calend	ar of the	Magistrate Ju	dge.
				Clerk,	U. S. D	istrict Court	
	August 23, 2013			Ву ј.]	Prado		
	Date				eputy Cle	erk	
			NOTICE TO	O COUNSEL			
А сору	of this notice must be ser	ved with	the summons a	nd complaint o	on all dej	fendants (if a 1	emoval action is
filed, a	copy of this notice must b	e served	on all plaintiffs).			
Subseq	uent documents must b	e filed a	the following	location:			
X	Western Division 312 N. Spring Street, G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012		Southern Divisi 411 West Fourt Santa Ana, CA	h St., Ste 1053		Eastern Divisi 3470 Twelfth Riverside, CA	Street, Room 134
Failure	e to file at the proper loc	ation wi		r documents t		turned to you	•